SORTING CRITERIA DEFINITIONS

1. Engineering and design complete and construction started within 10 years

- Includes completion of required decision documents; e.g. feasibility study including further modeling to optimize expected environmental outcome, full analysis of NED benefits, real estate coordination, etc.
- Includes completion of necessary NEPA documentation
- Includes pre-construction engineering & design (PED)
- Includes receipt of construction authorization and commencement of construction

2. Based upon sufficient scientific and engineering understanding of processes

- Opportunities that currently have a sound basis in Science & Technology (S&T)
- Science and engineering principles have been applied within Louisiana and successfully achieved beneficial ecosystem response

3. Construction can be considered independently; does not eliminate other near-term opportunities and/or require another restoration opportunity to be implemented first

- Scale of the near-term projects do not preclude the modification of plan to include long-term initiatives

CRITICAL NEEDS CRITERIA DEFINITIONS

Prevents future land loss where predicted to occur

- One of the most fundamental measures of ecosystem degradation in coastal Louisiana has been the conversion of land (mostly emergent vegetated habitat) to open water. Thus the projection of the future condition of the ecosystem must be based upon the determination of future patterns of land and water. Based on the U.S. Geological Survey open file report 03-334 “Historical and Predicted Coastal Louisiana Land Changes: 1978-2050”, do proposed opportunities prevent or reduce future predicted land loss or cypress swamp degradation in areas with existing fragmenting marsh or degrading cypress swamp?

(Sustainability) Restores fundamentally impaired or mimics deltaic processes through river reintroductions

- This criterion refers to opportunities to restore or mimic natural connections between the river and the basins (or estuaries) and includes distributary flows, crevasses, and over-bank flow. Mechanical marsh creation with river sediment is also viewed as mimicking deltaic processes if sustained by freshwater diversions.

(Sustainability) Restores endangered or critical geomorphic structure

- This criterion identifies opportunities that restore or maintain natural geomorphic features that are essential to maintaining the integrity of coastal ecosystems, including natural features such as barrier islands, distributary ridges, cheniers, and beach and lake rims.

Protects vital local, regional, and national socio-economic resources

- This criterion would identify proposed opportunities that potentially protect the vital local, regional, and national social, economic, and cultural resources. These resources include cultures, community, infrastructure, business and industry, and flood protection.

Capitalizes on existing infrastructure and activities

- This criterion would identify the proposed project elements (i.e. freshwater diversions, sediment delivery via pipeline, marsh creation, etc.) that capitalize on existing infrastructure. Existing infrastructure may include, but is not limited to, diversion structures that are in place but require modifications and/or improvements; diversion structures that are in place and operating but potentially not at full capacity or optimized for sediment introduction (e.g. Davis Pond Freshwater Diversion Structure). An "Activities" example would be navigation channel dredging that produces a usable resource (i.e. the sediment).

Public acceptability

- Public acceptability is based on comments received from multiple sources including:
  - Scoping meeting comments (verbal, written)
  - Public meeting comments (verbal, written)
  - Local Sponsor comments
  - Framework Development Team member individual comments
  - Vertical Team member comments
  - Stakeholder group comments